INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

T/PL2004/000089

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A CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 F16B21/08 F16B F16B19/00 F16B15/06 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 F16B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category 9 Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages X US 5 800 109 A (CARRUTHERS ET AL) 1,2,4,5, 1 September 1998 (1998-09-01) 7,18-20 figures 1-5 X US 5 306 098 A (LEWIS ET AL) 1,2,4, 26 April 1994 (1994-04-26) 18-20 the whole document X US 4 381 633 A (MACLEOD ET AL) 1,2,5,7 3 May 1983 (1983-05-03) figures 1-11 X US 4 395 174 A (FREEMAN ET AL) 1,2,8,10 26 July 1983 (1983-07-26) the whole document US 5 907 891 A (MEYER ET AL) X 1 - 4.91 June 1999 (1999-06-01) figures 1,2 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but called to understand the principle or theory underlying the 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance Invention ' "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another clation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such document and combination being obvious to a person skilled *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date ctaimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of malling of the international search report 01/02/2005 26 January 2005 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 spo nl, Fac: (+31-70) 340-3016 Huusom, C

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